**SS9 The Land and Its People**

**1F: Who Was Here First?**

Source: *Who Really Discovered America?* (History Channel video)(Illegally uploaded to YouTube by Offline933)

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| Questions | Answers/Details/Examples |
| **Intro**  Who do most Americans believe discovered America?  When?  Why do Americans think this?  Are they correct?  Why does he get credit for the discovery?  When did the Natives arrive? How did they get here? |  |
| **China I**  Name the explorer discussed in this section.  When are the Chinese said to have arrived in the Americas?  What evidence is there of a Chinese presence here?  Given what we know about Chinese ships and sailing technologies, *could* the Chinese have got here at this time? Explain.  Did they? What convinced you? |  |
| **China II**  When might the earlier Chinese have arrived?  What evidence is there of their arrival?  Was it even possible for people that long ago to travel so far over the ocean? How do we know?  What other group might have been travelling to the New World at this time?  Do you think this earlier visit from China happened, based on the evidence given? Why or why not? |  |
| **Wales**  Who is the Welsh explorer discussed? When is he supposed to have arrived?  What was the first evidence of the trip? Why would the idea of “finding America” have been added to the original in the mid-1500s?  What other evidence of the trip is there? Is it convincing? Why or why not? |  |
| **Polynesia**  When did this arrival supposedly happen?  What evidence do we have that they might have ‘discovered’ America?  What earlier theory was overturned? How? By whom? |  |
| **Scandinavia (Norse)**  Who are the famous explorers mentioned? When are they supposed to have arrived?  What evidence do we have for their arrival in Canada? Is it convincing? Why or why not?  Where else might the Vikings have visited? What convincing evidence is there of this? What unconvincing evidence is there?  Is the Kensington stone convincing? How could the Vikings have reached the middle of North America? Do you think they did? Why or why not? |  |
| **Ireland**  When is their arrival supposed to have happened? Who is the explorer mentioned?  What evidence is there of this trip?  Is this evidence convincing to you? Why or why not? |  |
| **Jews (modern Israel)**  When are the ancient Hebrews (Jews) supposed to have arrived?  Why were they travelling? Were their reasons different from the other groups discussed so far?  What evidence is there to prove the trip happened? What evidence is there against this theory?  Do you believe that further testing will prove the arrival of the ancient Jews to America? Why or why not? |  |
| **Solutreans**  When are the Solutreans said to have arrived?  What evidence do we have of the Solutrean arrival? (What makes scientists think they were here?)  Scientists admit that they are not 100% sure of the Solutrean arrival. Why do they seem comfortable with this? |  |
| **Japan**  When are the Japanese said to have arrived in South America?  What evidence is there of contact between the Japanese and the Ecuadorians?  Why might the Japanese have set out on a long voyage? Would their technology allow a voyage across the ocean?  Why are some scientists unconvinced? |  |
| **Conclusion**  There is evidence of New World contact long before Columbus (or even the Vikings). What are two examples?  Why do so many groups seem to want to be able to claim that they “discovered” America?  What kinds of science are practiced throughout this video? Name (or describe) as many as you can.  Do you think that the theories of who discovered the Americas are finalized? What changes to these theories do you think might be made in your lifetime? Why is it important for archaeologists to keep an open mind and inform the public of their discoveries? |  |
| **What questions do you still have about this topic? Where can you find the answers?** |  |